

## News Release

**For immediate release  
June 18, 2009**

**Contact:**

Selina Gomez-Beloz  
Public Relations Chair, REFORMA  
Chair  
(360) 264-2369  
selina-reforma@comcast.net  
www.reforma.org

Ramiro S. Salazar  
2009 Librarian of the Year Selection Committee  
(210) 207-2644  
ramiro.salazar@sanantonio.gov

### **Academic Named Trejo Librarian of the Year by REFORMA**

The librarian who was the first woman elected to the presidency of REFORMA, the national association to promote library and information services to Latinos and the Spanish-speaking community, has been selected by the organization to receive the 2009 Trejo Librarian of the Year Award. Susan Luevano, an Anthropology, Ethnic and Women's Studies Librarian at the California State University at Long Beach, will accept the award at the REFORMA National Conference this July in Chicago.

Ms. Luevano's career in libraries spans more than 30 years, during which she has broken new ground on more than one front. She was a founding member of the Orange County Chapter of REFORMA and served as one of the first Presidents of the organization. In 1985 she was elected President of REFORMA National, becoming the first woman ever to hold that position.

More than these "firsts," Ms. Luevano's colleagues and friends noted her passionate dedication to advocacy for and service to the Latino and Spanish-speaking communities in which she has served. She is one of the creators of "Seeds of Change/*Semillas de cambio*," an information competence tutorial which addresses the unique information skills that Chicano and Latino Studies students need in order to succeed in an academic setting. "*Semillas de cambio*" received the California State/Long Beach Scholarly and Creative Activities Award for Research.

Ms. Luevano is one of the founders of the Orange County Mexican American Historical Foundation, an organization with the mission of collecting, preserving and sharing the historical and cultural experiences of Mexican-American communities in Orange County, California. She currently serves as the Foundation's Vice-President. She has served on the REFORMA/UCLA Mentor Program Executive Committee, as Chair of the REFORMA Education Subcommittee, and as Secretary and Board member of the Trejo Foster Foundation for Hispanic Library Education. Ms. Luevano was on the Conference Steering Committee for UCLA'S *Memoria, Voz y Patrimonio*, the

first conference on Latino/Hispanic film, print and sound archives, held in 2003 and sponsored by the Trejo Foster Foundation.

Ms. Luevano is also the author of a number of publications, which include *Library Matters: a Practical Guide to Using the University Library*, *Mexican/Latino Immigrants and the Santa Ana Public Library: an Urban Ethnography*, and *Immigrant Politics and the Public Library*.

Ninfa Trejo, President of the Trejo Foster Foundation, said, “The Trejo Foster Foundation for Hispanic Library Education is proud to honor librarians that continue to work with colleagues and communities to promote services to the Spanish-speaking by sponsoring the award for the REFORMA Librarian of the Year. Susan Luevano epitomizes the ideals embodied in this award.”

“Anyone who has met Susan or heard her speak can recognize her commitment to advocacy for individuals who do not have someone to champion them,” said Mónica López, President of the Orange County Chapter of REFORMA.

#### **About the Trejo Librarian of the Year Award**

The Trejo Librarian of the Year Award is presented annually by REFORMA to recognize a librarian who has distinguished himself or herself in the field of librarianship, promoted and advocated services to the Spanish-speaking and Latino communities, and made outstanding contributions to REFORMA.

#### **About the Trejo Foster Foundation**

The Trejo Foster Foundation was founded in 1992 by REFORMA founder Dr. Arnulfo D. Trejo to serve as a significant force in advocating quality library and information services for Hispanic/Latinos in the United States; to influence schools of library and information science to recruit, retain and graduate more Hispanic/Latino students and to incorporate more Hispanic/Latino perspectives into the curriculum; and to provide a forum for the development, discussion and promotion of Hispanic/Latino library and information issues.

#### **About REFORMA**

Established in 1971 as an affiliate of the American Library Association, REFORMA seeks to promote the development of library collections to include Spanish-language and Latino oriented materials; the recruitment of more bilingual and bicultural library professionals and support staff; the development of library services and programs that meet the needs of the Latino community; the establishment of a national information and support network among individuals who share similar goals; the education of the U.S. Latino population in regards to the availability and types of library services; and lobbying efforts to preserve existing library resource centers serving the interests of Latinos. Currently there are 26 local REFORMA chapters across the United States.